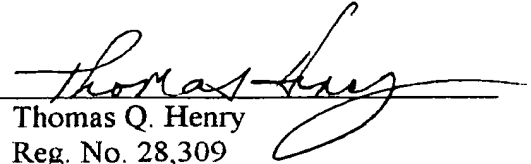


REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the above application as amended is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

~~1. A method for closure of an opening in a tissue membrane located beneath the skin of a patient, the tissue membrane having a distal side and a proximal side, comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a tubular member having a lumen therein beneath the skin of the patient and in close proximity to the opening in the tissue membrane;~~
~~inserting a first, distal end of a retrieval assembly through said lumen and past the opening to a location on the distal side of the tissue membrane;~~
~~providing needle means for penetrating through the tissue membrane and for carrying at least two lengths of suture material from the proximal side to the distal side of the tissue membrane;~~

~~advancing said needle means through the tissue membrane from the proximal side to the distal side of the tissue membrane adjacent but spaced from the opening at two separate suture locations, the needle means carrying the suture material through the tissue membrane at the two separate suture locations;~~

~~grabbing the suture material with the distal end of said retrieval assembly at the location on the distal side of the tissue membrane;~~

~~retrieving said suture material through the opening by withdrawing the distal end of said retrieval assembly out through the opening; and;~~

~~drawing the suture locations together with said suture material passing through the suture locations.~~